GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2360
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2016
Eco-Friendly Environment for Tourists
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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to attract more tourists in the country and to create eco-friendly environment for the tourists;
(b) if so, the details of action taken by the Government thereon and the funds allocated to various States/UTs in this regard; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination in the domestic and international markets. As a part of its promotional activities, the Ministry of Tourism releases campaigns in the international & domestic markets under the Incredible India brand-line, showcases various tourism destinations and products including Eco Tourism sites.

The steps taken by the Ministry of Tourism to tap eco- tourism potential and to create eco-friendly environment for the tourists in the country include:

(i) Development of Comprehensive Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India (STCI) for three major segments of the tourism industry, namely accommodation, tour operators, and Beaches, Backwaters, Lakes & Rivers sectors in August 2014, which is applicable for the entire country.
(ii) Issuance of guidelines for approval of Hotel Projects at the implementation stage and also for Classification/Re-classification of operational hotels under various categories. These guidelines mandate incorporation of various eco-friendly measures like installation of Sewage Treatment Plant, Rain water Harvesting, Waste Management System, Pollution Control and Introduction of non-Chlorofluorocarbon equipment for refrigeration and air conditioners, energy and water conservation measures.
(iii) For development of tourism infrastructure in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has also launched the Swadesh Darshan scheme - Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits, in 2014-15. Eco Circuit has been identified as one of the thirteen thematic circuits for development under the scheme. The Ministry has sanctioned following projects to various State Governments under Eco Circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan scheme:

<pre> (Rs. in Crore)
Sl. No. Name of the Project Amount Sanctioned
1. Integrated Development of Eco-Tourism, Adventure Sports, Associated Tourism related Infrastructure for Development of Tehri Lake & Surroundings as New Destination-District Tehri, Uttarakhand. 80.37
2. Integrated Development of Eco Tourism Circuit in Mahaboobnagar district, Telangana. 91.62
3. Development of Pathanamthitta − Gavi − Vagamon − Thekkady as Eco Tourism Circuit in Idduki and Pathanamthitta Districts in Kerala. 99.22
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